AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ensuring data quality and integrity of a data set derived from a data source, said method comprising the steps of :

obtaining data from said data source comprising a plurality of transaction systems;

building a data repository using said data from said data source, said data repository comprising a data structure that forms ~~a~~ an enterprise-level model of said data from said data source, said building step comprising the steps of :

applying enterprise-level business rules from a rules database using stored procedures or SQL statements to said data from said data source, said enterprise-level business rules comprising data and ~~dependent upon~~ meta data stored in said data repository describing each rule which can be viewed and edited by a user separately, said data of said enterprise-level business rules comprising one or more attributes for each rule; ~~and~~

detecting any errors in said data and storing data satisfying said enterprise-level business rules in said data repository; and

feeding back said errors to said data source for correction.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of reporting said detected errors for correction of said errors in said data source.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing an integrated data set for export from said data repository.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [4] 1, further comprising the step of storing said data from said plurality of transaction systems in a staging area.

6. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [7] 1, further comprising the step of correcting at least a portion of data of said data source dependent upon an error fed back to said data source.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said applying step comprises the step of invoking procedures stored in said data repository.

10. (Canceled)

11. Original) The method according to claim 1, comprising the step of loading said data from said data source into a staging area.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of triggering said building step.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~rules database comprises~~ one or more attributes for each rule are selected from the group consisting of :

rule type,

rule name,

a text description of the rule,

rule syntax,

invocation of said rule,

reporting of erroneous data to said enterprise-level model,

name of a stored procedure for checking said rule,

rule precedence,

a target table identifier,

a target column name,

activation status of said rule,

status information of whether or not said rule is required for complete data quality and integrity,

an error identifier,

status information of whether or not said rule is traceable back to said data from said transaction systems, and

a parameter list, if required by said stored procedure.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A system for ensuring data quality and integrity of a data set derived from a data source, said system comprising ~~the steps of~~:

means for obtaining data from said data source comprising a plurality of transaction systems;

means for building a data repository using said data from said data source, said data repository comprising a data structure that forms ~~a~~ an enterprise-level model of said data from said data source, said building means comprising:

means for applying enterprise-level business rules from a rules database using stored procedures or SQL statements to said data from said data source, said enterprise-level business rules comprising data and meta data stored in said data repository describing each rule which can be viewed and edited by a user separately, said data of said enterprise-level business rules comprising one or more attributes for each rule; ~~dependent upon meta data~~ ;

~~and~~ means for detecting any errors in said data and storing data satisfying said enterprise-level business rules in said data repository; and

means for feeding back said errors to said data source for correction.

16. (Original) The system according to claim 15, further comprising means for reporting said detected errors for correction of said errors in said data source.

17. (Original) The system according to claim 15, further comprising means for providing an integrated data set for export from said data repository.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim ~~18~~ 15, further comprising means for storing said data from said plurality of transaction systems in a staging area.

20. -21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim ~~21~~ 15, further comprising means for correcting at least a portion of data of said data source dependent upon an error fed back to said data source.

23. (Original) The system according to claim 15, wherein said applying means comprises means for invoking procedures stored in said data repository.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The system according to claim 15, comprising means for loading said data from said data source into a staging area.

26. (Original) The system according to claim 25, further comprising means for triggering said building means.

27. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 15, wherein said ~~rules database comprises~~ one or more attributes for each rule are selected from the group consisting of :

rule type,

rule name,

a text description of the rule,

rule syntax,

invocation of said rule,

reporting of erroneous data to said enterprise-level model,

name of a stored procedure for checking said rule,

rule precedence,

a target table identifier,

a target column name,

activation status of said rule,

status information of whether or not said rule is required for complete data quality and integrity,

an error identifier,

status information of whether or not said rule is traceable back to said data from said transaction systems, and

a parameter list, if required by said stored procedure.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) A computer program product having a computer readable medium with a computer program recorded therein for ensuring data quality and integrity of a data set derived from a data source, said computer program product comprising:

computer program code means for obtaining data from said data source comprising a plurality of transaction systems;

computer program code means for building a data repository using said data from said data source, said data repository comprising a data structure that forms ~~a~~ an enterprise-level model of said data from said data source, said computer program code means for building comprising:

computer program code means for applying enterprise-level business rules from a rules database using stored procedures or SQL statements to said data from said data source, said enterprise-level business rules comprising data and ~~dependent upon~~ meta data~~; and~~ stored in said data repository describing each rule which can be viewed and edited by a user separately from said stored procedures, said data of said enterprise-level business rules comprising one or more attributes for each rule;

computer program code means for detecting any errors in said data and storing data satisfying said enterprise-level business rules in said data repository; and

computer program code means for feeding back said errors to said data source for correction .

30. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 29, further comprising computer program code means for reporting said detected errors for correction of said errors in said data source.

31. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 29, further comprising computer program code means for providing an integrated data set for export from said data repository.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim ~~32~~ 29, further comprising computer program code means for storing said data from said plurality of transaction systems in a staging area.

34. - 35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to claim ~~35~~ 29, further comprising computer program code means for correcting at least a portion of data of said data source dependent upon an error fed back to said data source.

37. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 29, wherein said computer program code means for applying comprises computer program code means for invoking procedures stored in said data repository.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 29, comprising computer program code means for loading said data from said data source into a staging area.

40. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 39, further comprising computer program code means for triggering said computer program code means for building.

41. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 29, wherein said ~~rules database comprises~~ one or more attributes for each rule are selected from the group consisting of :

rule type,

rule name,

a text description of the rule,

rule syntax,

invocation of said rule,

reporting of erroneous data to said enterprise-level model,

name of a stored procedure for checking said rule,

rule precedence,

a target table identifier,

a target column name,

activation status of said rule,

status information of whether or not said rule is required for complete data quality and integrity,

an error identifier,

status information of whether or not said rule is traceable back to said data from said transaction systems, and

a parameter list, if required by said stored procedure.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) A system for ensuring data quality and integrity of a data set derived from a data source, said system comprising:

a data repository comprising a relational store and stored procedures, said data repository further comprising a data structure that forms an enterprise-level model of said data from said data source comprising a plurality of transaction systems;

~~a~~ an enterprise-level rules database comprising enterprise-level business rules affecting the transfer of data from said data source to said data repository, said rules database being comprising data and meta data stored in said data repository describing each rule which can be viewed and edited by a user separately, said data of said enterprise-level business rules comprising one or more attributes for each rule;

a data quality and integrity engine coupled to said enterprise-level rules database for invoking said stored procedures of said data repository on said data, said data quality and integrity engine for detecting errors in said data and for controlling transfer of said data into said data repository dependent upon said enterprise-level rules database.

44. (Original) The system according to claim 43, wherein said data repository further comprises an error log, said error log comprising data about one or more errors detected by said data quality and integrity engine.

45. (Original) The system according to claim 44, wherein said data repository further comprises an error history coupled to said error log.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Original) The system according to claim 43, further comprising a staging area for storing at least a portion of said data from said data source, said staging area being coupled to said data quality and integrity engine.

48. (Original) The system according to claim 47, further comprising a virtual quality firewall separating said staging area and said data repository.

49. (Original) The system according to claim 47, wherein said data quality and integrity engine controls transfer of data from said data set from said staging area into said relational store dependent upon said rules database.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) A system for ensuring data quality and integrity of a data set derived from a data source, said system comprising:

a storage unit for storing data and computer program code to be carried out by a processing unit, said storage unit implementing at least a portion of a data repository, said data repository comprising a data structure that forms ~~a~~ an enterprise-level model of data from said data source;

a processing unit coupled to said at least said storage unit, said processing unit being programmed with said computer program code to:

obtain said data from said data source comprising a plurality of transaction systems;

populating said data repository using said data from said data source, said populating step comprising:

applying enterprise-level business rules from ~~a~~ an enterprise-level rules database to said data from said data source, said enterprise-level business rules ~~dependent upon~~ comprising data and meta data stored in said data repository describing each rule which can be viewed and edited by a user separately from said stored procedures, said data of said enterprise-level business rules comprising one or more attributes for each rule; ~~and~~

detecting any errors in said data and storing data satisfying said enterprise-level business rules in said data repository; and

feeding back said errors to said data source for correction.

52. (Original) The system according to claim 51, wherein said processing unit is programmed with computer program code to report said detected errors for correction of said errors in said data source.

53. (Original) The system according to claim 51, wherein said processing unit is programmed with computer program code to provide an integrated data set for export from said data repository.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim [54] 51, wherein said processing unit is programmed with computer program code to store said data from said plurality of transaction systems in a staging area.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Original) The system according to claim 51, wherein said applying comprises invoking procedures stored in said data repository.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Original) The system according to claim 51, wherein said processing unit is programmed with computer program code to load said data from said data source into a staging area.

60. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 51, wherein said ~~rules database comprises~~ one or more attributes for each rule are selected from the group consisting of :

rule type,

rule name,

a text description of the rule,

rule syntax,

invocation of said rule,

reporting of erroneous data to said enterprise-level model,

name of a stored procedure for checking said rule,

rule precedence,

a target table identifier,

a target column name,

activation status of said rule,

status information of whether or not said rule is required for complete data quality and integrity,

an error identifier,

status information of whether or not said rule is traceable back to said data from said transaction systems, and

a parameter list, if required by said stored procedure.